

10 May 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

Relationship of Data Contained in "The BDA" and ERA
Project 00.4771, The Record and Potential of Air
Attacks in Attaining US Objectives in Vietnam

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1. In discussing the relationship between data used in Project 00.4771 and data contained in "the BDA" it is necessary to distinguish between several imprecisely titled documents issued by the BDA Branch of DIA. By some people, all are regarded as "the BDA". We have, however, made a distinction between:

- (1) the BDA compilation of individual strike reports (for an example see Attachment 1),
- (2) "Summary of US and VNAF Air Strikes on DRV Since 1/1/65" (See Attachment 2), and
- (3) "DIA Results of Strikes on DRV Targets" (See Attachment 3).

Supplemental sheets to all three publications are issued simultaneously and are not always in agreement with each other or internally consistent. Correction sheets also are frequently issued at much later dates. Hence our use of the term "corrected" individual strike reports.

2. Data pertaining to sorties which were contained in Project 00.4771 are a summation of data in the BDA individual strike reports, as corrected through 19 February. They also agree with a summation of data contained in the "Summary of US and VNAF Air Strikes on DRV Since 1/1/65" as corrected for discrepancies between the "Summary" and the individual BDA strike reports. In this sense they are in complete agreement with "the BDA". This agreement was reflected in the following footnote that appears on page B-7 of Appendix B, in the printed version of Project 00.4771:

Data in this Appendix were derived from individual strike reports given in the Bomb Damage Assessment (BDA) and therefore may not agree with data in other Sections and Appendixes which have been derived from other sources such as execute messages and preliminary strike reports. The data, however, have been made as consistent as possible, given problems associated with correction of preliminary data and varied reporting systems.

DIA review(s) completed.

3. Data in Project 00.4771 do not agree exactly with data summarized in the "DIA Results of Strikes on DRV Targets". We were informed by a representative of the BDA Branch that, although an attempt is made to refine the "Results" as more accurate data become available, in between revisions data are cumulated without correction. Hence the "Results" are less accurate than the corrected individual strike reports. Moreover, the "Results" contain data only on Strike plus Flak Suppression Sorties, include no data on CAP, RESCAP, ECM, Photo or other Support Sorties, do not allocate aircraft according to Service, and contain no data on losses. We therefore decided to work with the individual strike reports and with the "Summary" rather than with the "Results". As indicated by the following tabulation of data through 24 December 1965, the total carried by the "Results" for Strike plus Flak Suppression Sorties is only slightly larger (112) than the total derived from the individual strike reports and the "Summary".

Strike Plus Flak Suppression Sorties
2 March - 24 December 1965

	<u>"DIA Results"</u>	<u>ERA Project 00.4771, BDA Individual Strike Reports, BDA "Summary"</u>
Armed Reconnaissance	16,466	17,129
Fixed Target	7,703	6,928
Total	<u>24,169</u>	<u>24,057</u>

The difference in allocation to armed reconnaissance and fixed target sorties was greater. Apparently some of the sorties assigned by the BDA individual strike reports to Armed Reconnaissance were carried as Fixed Target sorties in the "Results".

4. Apart from the differences in totals and in allocation to Fixed Target or Armed Reconnaissance, data shown in the "Results" for sorties against individual Fixed Target Systems differ from data contained in the graphic summaries of attacks on individual target systems in Appendix B of Project 00.4771. For example, the "Results" show 210 strike sorties against "Power Plants" through 24 December 1965. The Project 00.4771 graphic summary of attacks on powerplants shows 229. This is explained by a footnote to the graphic summary which states "included 19 aircraft that also attacked fixed targets of other types on mission." Such inclusion was desired to determine the total number of planes over various types of targets as an aid to analyzing losses and vulnerability of planes engaged in different types of missions. (The DIA "Results" assigns aircraft striking multiple targets to the principal target only.) No

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double counting resulted in Project 00.4771 from the inclusion of planes engaged in multiple missions in more than one graphic summary, because the total of sorties and their allocation to Fixed Target, Armed Reconnaissance, Strike plus Flak Suppression, or Support, was derived independently on the basis of the BDA individual strike reports.

5. In addition to the correction sheets issued by the BDA Branch of DIA, some further correction, or at least selection, of data contained in the BDA individual strike reports was necessary. The total number of sorties shown in such reports does not always agree with the sum of the individual aircraft reported for the strike, as is illustrated by the following tabulation of discrepancies in strike reports during 5-19 February.

Strike Number	Date	Total Aircraft Credited to Strike in BDA Strike Report	Sum of Individual Aircraft Listed in BDA Strike Report	Deviation of Total from Sum of Individual Aircraft
1126	2/5/66	64	62	+2
1134	2/6/66	116	46	+70
1136	2/7/66	93	92	+1
1139	2/8/66	45	46	-1
1151	2/11/66	101	100	+1
1163	2/16/66	93	100	-7
1167	2/17/66	88	90	-2
1175	2/19/66	61	71	-10
Total for 8 Strikes Shown		661	607	+54

Where the BDA report for an individual strike was internally inconsistent, the sum of the individual aircraft reported was used in Project 00.4771, in preference to the total number of aircraft shown for the strike. The reason for this choice was that the more detailed data selected were in agreement with data contained in the "Summary" and permitted a distinction between Strike plus Flak Suppression and Support Aircraft.

6. In addition to the data originating in the BDA Branch of DIA, there are other Armed Service documents (such as the STAG, Assessment of the Air Effort in Vietnam and Laos, and certain series issued by NMCC/PAC that contain data pertaining to sorties which have been based on executive messages or other preliminary data, rather than on the actual BDA reports of individual strikes.

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CIA DIA

April	1200	{ 3823 2611 ----- 5474
May	1237	
June	1386 - 3823	

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Total	27,932	16,466
		3703 strike
		24,169

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2					
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks: <p>Data in Project 00.4771 agree with the BDA individual strike reports and with the "Summary of US & VNAF Air Strikes on DRV Since 1/1/65." They do not agree exactly with the "DIA Results of Strikes on DRV Targets", which is a compilation of relatively uncorrected data pertaining only to Strike plus Flak Suppression Sorties.</p> <p>In March the BDA Branch of DIA planned to revise the "Results" to reflect corrections in the individual BDA strike reports. We supplied them with copies of worksheets from Project 00.4771 to assist in the process. The personnel of the Branch changed at about that time, and I don't know whether revision was undertaken or not.</p>					
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